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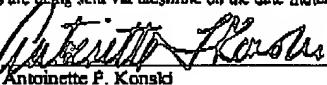
Certificate of Mailing/Transmission (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)):

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date indicated below in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(d), I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being sent via facsimile on the date indicated below to the attention of Examiner Willse at Facsimile No. 1-703-872-9306.

Dated: June 8, 2004

Name of Person Certifying:

Printed Name:  Antoinette P. Konski

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Thomas A. Silvestrini

Examiner: David H. Willse

Filing Date: July 15, 1996

Group Art Unit: 3738

Serial No.: 08/596,221

Title: SEGMENTED PLIABLE INTRASTROMAL CORNEAL INSERT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

This paper is submitted in reply to the Office Action issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 8, 2003, in connection with the above-identified application. A response to this Action originally was due March 8, 2004. Applicant hereby Petitions for a Three Month Extension of Time, thereby extending the deadline to reply to June 8, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

The Amendments to and Listing of the Claims begin on Page 2 of this Reply.

The Remarks begin on Page 5 of this Reply.

The Conclusion is on Page 8 of this Reply.